



REGIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Dave Brancamp, Director

NORTHWEST REGION

Carson City
Churchill
Douglas
Lyon
Storey
Washoe

January 27, 2012

To: Colin Usher, Project Manager SRCL

As the director of the Northwest Regional Professional Development Program (NWRPDP), I would like to submit this overview letter as a potential provider of professional development in partnership with our regions five districts (Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon and Washoe County School Districts) who are applying for the grant funds to be awarded from the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Grant (SRCL). The NWRPDP was established as part of NRS 391.512 in 1999 to provide research-based professional development opportunities to all of the school districts in our assigned region. The Nevada Revised Statue specifically directs the RPDP's around our state to provide training around the standards adopted by our state. In addition we have offered trainings/workshops in the following areas: Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program (NELIP), writing initiatives, Student Learning Facilitator (SLF) program, math initiatives, science initiatives, STEM initiatives, kindergarten cadre, content area literacy, instructional coaching, ongoing professional development workshops around Common Core State Standards (CCSS), professional learning communities (PLC) trainings, Teach for Success (T4S), and parent education trainings .

The NWRPDP has worked collaboratively with researchers, universities and fellow professional development trainers over the years to better support the educational community in the region. During the 2010 – 2011 school year NWRPDP has been in extensive collaboration with the NDE as the transition to the (CCSS) was initiated. Over half of the trainers have worked with NDE staff and state educators serving on various committees (Steering Committee, PD Committee etc...). Regional trainers also worked with colleagues from the other regional programs to develop and deliver initial training for administrators and teachers throughout the region on the implementation of the CCSS.

In reviewing our current work, including the implementation of the CCSS, across our region and the Nevada State Literacy Plan from 2011, I have found numerous areas of alignment and support. Obviously, the third belief stated on page one of your plan “All teachers and administrators need ongoing professional development to improve literacy instruction,” fits perfectly with the mission and vision of the NWRPDP. I feel we can draw on the resources developed over the years in our NELIP activities to complement the work already done and move forward with the ideas shared in the SRCL. As noted on page two, we are a state funded agency charged with the professional development in our region in partnerships with Washoe County School District as our fiscal agent and other agencies charged with preparing teachers to work with literacy leaders to shape policy to improve literacy instruction.

Northwest Regional Professional Development Program
380 Edison Way, Reno, NV 89502 Phone: 775-861-4470 Fax: 775-861-4485

Under Essential Element 1 the third bullet will align to our work in the various literacy initiatives, NELIP, and our writing initiatives with CCSS in collaboration with the Northern Nevada Writing Project. Essential Element 2 has multiple connections to our current work with various agencies around the implementation of the CCSS and our work to increase teacher understanding and practices of a language-rich literacy classroom. I believe the work of our NWRPDP Governing Board and the collaboration noted in the two recent MSP grants awarded by NDE, demonstrate the importance we put in developing and expanding the collaboration across our six districts and with our higher education institutions to support and increase the access of our teachers to high-quality professional development. As part of SB 197 the RPDP's have been instructed to expand their training offerings to include parents from the school community. Some of our trainers have been connected with the Parent's University in Washoe County School District. I feel this partnership and working with our regional district PTA's on the use of the national PTA work around CCSS demonstrate our alignment to Essential Element 4. As for Essential Element 5, I feel our expanded work with K-2 teachers around the CCSS through the NELIP, Kindergarten Cadre, and K-2 CCSS workshops will assist with the support noted in aligning the district's literacy curriculum Pre-K through grade 3. Finally, the Essential Element 6, which speaks about both research-based instruction around literacy and questioning techniques as it impacts student learning is a natural connection to our work with the SLF and T4S programs.

As noted earlier the RPDP's were established by NRS 391.512 in 1999 to provide research-based professional development opportunities to all of the school districts in Nevada. The NRS 391.544 specifically directed the organization to focus on training teachers in the standards which are established by the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools (NRS 389.520) and to establish and implement the Nevada Early Literacy Intervention Program (NELIP). The regional program has been further charged with providing at least one of the following types of training: using assessment and measurement of pupil achievement including methods of analyzing data to improve student achievement, instruction in content areas including methods of instruction or training in methods to teach basic skills to students in reading and mathematics in the last twelve years.

Over the first decade the NWRPDP program evolved from a Trainer of Trainers model, where leaders from each school site were trained as Site Trainers who then trained their colleagues, to a model based on the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) professional development standards. Many programs have been designed to meet the various needs of the six counties we are currently servicing. Thus we already have in place a culture of facilitation, follow-up observations and mentoring and coaching of both teachers and administrators.

I hope this short history and brief description of services will give you and your literacy team an adequate picture of the NWRPDP. Our team of trainers is willing to work with our districts in their planning and implementation of their individual Striving Readers sub-grants if awarded by the NDE. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this outstanding opportunity for all of Nevada.

Sincerely,

David J. Brancamp, Director NWRPDP

Northwest Regional Professional Development Program
380 Edison Way, Reno, NV 89502 Phone: 775-861-4470 Fax: 775-861-4485